largely for their food upon substances washed down by rivers, grow in bays and waters which in many cases receive the sewage from cities. From various investigations, it has been demonstrated that oysters are naturally cleansed when put in clean surroundings, and Phelps found that two days' sojourn in pure water was sufficient to cleanse the oysters. This fact was further demonstrated by the author by which he found that oysters inoculated with B. coli were cleansed in a few days, showing that the period necessary for purification was short enough to make the process economically reasonable. Studies of the physiology, feeding habits and digestive mechanism of the oyster showed that the food material progressed through the gastro-intestinal system and was eliminated within five hours. The successful treatment of public drinking water with a small amount of hypochlorite of lime, and the low cost of the same suggested its use for purifying oysters. A tank was filled with Chesapeake Bay water, and about forty oysters were suspended eighteen inches below the surface in iron wire baskets. The tank was inoculated with cultures of B. coli, and after the oysters had become thoroughly infected, samples were collected. The water was then disinfected with from 25 to 150 c.c. of a 10 per cent. suspension of commercial calcium hypochlorite. After six hours, a second dose was added to kill such bacteria as might have escaped the first treatment. In the quantitative estimation of the number of B. coli suitable dilutions of the material were inoculated into lactose bouillon. Fermentation of this medium with typical appearance when smeared on endo-plates was considered a positive test for the organism. The score of three separate tests on each sample of five oysters was used. The results of these tests at about 26° C. and with a definite amount of available chlorine added per million parts of water showed great purification within twenty-four hours and some change when tested after six hours. Most of the initial samples were grossly contaminated; after the action of the hypochlorite, all but one (which received only one treatment) had less than 10 B. coli per cubic centimeter. No change in the condition of the oysters could be detected nor did the disinfectant appear to interfere with the normal activity of the oysters or with their flavor. The author concludes with the statement that the experiments go to prove that oysters can be artificially purified by exposure for a short period to water containing calcium hypochlorite and that such a process is feasible and practical.

Hemolytic Streptococci Found in Milk.—The attention of workers has been directed to the pathogenic properties of streptococci found in milk because of the relation existing between the milk supply and epidemics of streptococcal sore throat. As far as is known all streptococci causing epidemics have been of the hemolytic type, causing on human blood agar a clear zone 1 to 3 mm. in diameter about the colony. Non-hemolytic or feebly hemolytic streptococci, such as Streptococcus lacticus, may cause mastitis in cows, but there is no evidence to prove that they are pathogenic for man. DAVIS (*Jour. Infect. Dis.*, August, 1916, xvii, No. 2) made a study of hemolyzing streptococci obtained under various conditions from samples of pasteurized and certified milk. The strains isolated were subjected to various tests and compared with human hemolytic streptococci; 328 specimens of bottled milk were collected from nine different dairies. Human blood agar was used in making plates and the counts were made after incubation at 37° C. for forty-eight hours; 85 of these samples yielded streptococci of the strongly hemolytic variety and these were carefully studied as to their morphology and cultural characteristics. They were found to vary considerably in shape, arrangement, sugar fermentation, and in the characteristics of the hemolytic zone formed. They were found to be more resistant to heat than the human strains of streptococci. Most of the strains were relatively avirulent for rabbits and therefore throat epidemics are very virulent for rabbits. It was found that human hemolytic streptococci coming direct from human lesions or from the diseased udder of a cow are much more virulent for cow than the hemolytic milk strains or bovine types, and a study of the morphology and cultural characteristics of the human and bovine types helps to prove further the difference between these two types. There has been no definite evidence to prove that the hemolytic milk streptococci have any sanitary significance although, on the other hand, the data at hand are not sufficient to positively exclude the possibility of bovine streptococci attaining virulence for man. However, during the course of this investigation, the different strains were observed for a considerable time and under various conditions, but only very slight, if any, variations were noted.

The Correlation of Certain Reactions of Colon Bacilli and Like Organisms with Source.—HUTTON (*Jour. Infect. Dis.*, 1916, xix, No. 4) studied forty-five members of the colon-aërogenes group of bacteria isolated from various sources: milk, human feces, rabbit feces, water, sewage, human urine, and from egg powder. Their fermentation powers with various carbohydrates, lactose, sorbite, raffinose, dextrin, dextrose, saccharose, dulcite, mannite, maltose, adonite, and inulin were tested and it was found that there is a better correlation between saccharose-fermentation and source than between saccharose-dulcite fermentation and source. The methyl-red and Voges-Proskauer reactions are related as all organisms alkaline to methyl red gave a positive Voges-Proskauer reaction and all organisms acid to methyl red gave a negative Voges-Proskauer reaction. Organisms that gave a positive Voges-Proskauer reaction were non-fecal in origin and therefore it seems that this and the methyl red reactions are of sanitary importance in determining colon organisms of fecal origin.

The Bacteriology of the Bubble Fountain.—PETTIBONE, BOGART and CLARK (*Jour. Bacteriol.*, 1916, i, No. 5) found that during an epidemic of streptococcus tonsillitis in a woman's dormitory at the University of Wisconsin streptococci were present in the bubble fountains used in the building and in the water issuing from these fountains. The city water supplying these fountains is of excellent quality, obtained from deep wells in sandstone, and several examinations showed no evidence of streptococci, while smears from a Berkefeld filter, through which the city water flowed for one week, showed nothing. A survey of all the fountains of the University showed the presence of Gram-positive streptococci in 55.8 per cent. of these fountains—an almost pure culture being obtained from one. Tests were